

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00  
OMB-01 DHA-05 /093 W  
-----051023 251325Z /43

P R 251234Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0902  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION NATO  
USMISSION USBERLIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 13867

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: US, GW, WB, OVIP, PINT  
SUBJECT: STOBBE VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF: USBERLIN 2233

SUMMARY. AS SEEN FROM BONN, STOBBE'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER HAVE MADE A TIMELY CONTRIBUTION NOT ONLY TO WEST BERLIN'S SELF-CONFIDENCE, BUT TO US-FRG RELATIONS. THE OVERALL IMPRESSION IS ONE OF TOP-LEVEL COMMITMENT TO BERLIN AND OF GENERAL AMERICAN "RELIABILITY"--I.E., THE TRADITIONAL AMERICAN IMAGE IN GERMANY. THIS IS A WELCOME ANTIDOTE FOR CURRENT UNEASE IN THE FRG OVER AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO FORWARD DEFENSE, AND A TENDENCY TO FOCUS ON DIFFERENCES RATHER THAN CONTINUITY IN US-FRG RELATIONS.  
END SUMMARY.

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1. STOBBE'S VISIT HAS RECEIVED TOP COVERAGE IN THE GERMAN MEDIA, WHICH HAS FOCUSED IN PARTICULAR ON STOBBE'S OWN COMMENTS, INTERVIEWS, AND BACKGROUNDING TO THE GERMAN PRESS. STOBBE HAS LEFT NO DOUBT THAT HE IS DELIGHTED WITH HIS RECEPTION IN WASHINGTON AND HAS EMPHASIZED HIS PERSONAL IMPRESSION OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S CONCERN OVER AND COMMITMENT TO BERLIN. HE HAS ALSO MADE

IT CLEAR THAT THE TOP LEVELS AS WELL AS THE BUREAUCRACY IN WASHINGTON TAKE BERLIN VERY SERIOUSLY AND KNOW ITS PROBLEMS WELL. HE HAS EMPHASIZED THAT THE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED A "PRIORITY" INTEREST IN VISITING BERLIN DURING A FUTURE TRIP TO THE FRG.

2. STOBBE'S DISCUSSION OF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN WIDELY REPORTED. STOBBE HAS EMPHASIZED TO THE GERMAN PRESS THAT HE PUT HIS VIEW ACROSS CLEARLY IN THE WHITE HOUSE THAT THE USSR IS CHEWING AWAY AT THE QA'S PROVISIONS FOR CONTINUING NORMAL DEVELOPMENT OF TIES BETWEEN BERLIN AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC, AND HIS CONCERN THAT THE SOVIETS ARE TRYING TO GET THE THREE WESTERN POWERS TO JOIN THE USSR IN ALLOWING OCCUPATION RIGHTS TO ALL OF BERLIN TO LAPSE. HE HAS ALSO REPORTED THAT HE STRESSED IN WASHINGTON THAT THE U.S. AND THE PRESIDENT SHOULD MAKE CLEAR TO THE SOVIETS THAT THE QA SHOULD BE OBSERVED AND THAT BERLIN REMAINS A LITMUS TEST FOR EAST-WEST RELATIONS IN WHICH LOCAL TROUBLE CAN AFFECT THE OVERALL TENOR OF DETENTE. STOBBE HAS ALSO BEEN REPORTED AS SUGGESTING THAT THE QA FORMULA ON PERMITTING RELATIONS TO DEVELOP BETWEEN BERLIN AND THE FRG BE MADE THE SUBJECT OF A "CLARIFICATION" AT THE CSCE FOLLOW-ON CONFERENCE IN BELGRADE.

3. IN CONNECTION WITH U.S. INVESTMENT IN BERLIN, HE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SAID THAT HE RAISED THE QUESTION OF U.S. TAX LAWS AND THEIR EFFECT ON BERLIN INCENTIVES TO INVESTORS, AS WELL AS THE POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FORD MOTOR PLANT IN BERLIN. HE CHARACTERIZED THE LATTER AS "LESS LIKELY".

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SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 DHA-05 /093 W

-----051015 251324Z /43

P R 251234Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0903

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STOBBE HAS ALSO BEEN QUOTED AS SEEING NO INCOMPATIBILITY BETWEEN CONTINUING EFFORTS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN ALL OF BERLIN, AND THE PURSUIT OF MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS RELATIONS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST.

4. COMMENT: STOBBE'S TRIP HAS PROVIDED A TIMELY BOOST TO US-FRG RELATIONS GENERALLY, AS WELL AS AN EARNEST OF AMERICA'S CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO BERLIN. THE IMPRESSION OF THE CONTINUITY OF AMERICA'S COMMITMENT SHOULD SERVE AS AT LEAST A PARTIAL ANTIDOTE TO WIDESPREAD RECENT CONCERN IN THE FRG OVER AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO THE FORWARD DEFENSE OF EUROPE. STOBBE'S VIVID CHARACTERIZATION OF THE U.S. AND ITS PRESIDENT AS A STRONG, RELIABLE FRIEND OF BERLIN IS THE TYPE OF POSITIVE COMMENTARY ON US-GERMAN RELATIONS THAT STANDS IN CONTRAST TO A NUMBER OF COMMENTS HERE IN RECENT MONTHS

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ON DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BONN AND WASHINGTON.

5. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT STOBBE'S WASHINGTON VISIT IS A FEATHER IN HIS CAP, AND NO ONE IN BONN HAS MISSED THE POINT THAT HIS TRIP TO WASHINGTON TOOK PLACE A BARE FOUR MONTHS AFTER HE ASSUMED OFFICE AS MAYOR OF BERLIN. AT THE SAME TIME, SCHMIDT'S ROLE IN ARRANGING STOBBE'S TRIP HAS BEEN WELL PUBLICIZED AND HE, TOO, CAN TAKE A MEASURE OF POLITICAL SATISFACTION FROM THIS VISIT.

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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